Remunerative Price for Groundnut

4142. DR. Y.LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of farmers in Andhra Pradesh have stopped cultivating groundnut crop because of lack of remunerative price;

(b) its impact on oil mills; and

(c) how the shortage of groundnut is proposed to be dealt with to ensure that there is no shortage of oil in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIS.B.PB.K. SATYANARAYANARAO): (a)and(b) No, Sir.However, there has been a decline in the area and production of groundnut in the State of Andhra Pradesh, due to drought situation prevailing in the State, during 1999-2000. This would have affected the availability of raw material for the oil mills upto some extent. The groundnut is cultivated in the State of Andhra Pradesh under rainfed conditions and due to scarcity of water, the farmers may have diverted their lands to other remunerative crops.

(c) There is a conspicuous change in consumption trends of oilseeds. Consumption of alternate edible oils like sunflower, palmolein oil, gingelly oil, saffi "wer oil is on the increase and as such there is considerable reduction of pressure on consumption of groundnut oil. Further, the seasonal shortages in the event of fall in production due to drought and other exigencies are obviated by import of oils like palmolein and other oils.

Efforts are also being made to improve the productivity levels by transfer of improved production technologies in groundnut through on Farm Extension Demonstrations under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).

Fresh Proposals to Face the Drought in Gujarat

4143. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat is already under severe drought and whether Government have taken any serious attempt to send relief immediately;

(b) whether Government have received any fresh proposals from the States to face the drought situation in the coming months in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?